Michael F. Easley
Governor

# State of North Carolina
# Office of the Governor

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## GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES TRANSPORTATION ENERGY CENTER AT N.C. STATE
### *Public-Private Partnership Puts N.C. In Forefront Of Growing Technology Sector*

**RALEIGH –** Gov. Mike Easley today announced the creation of the Advanced Transportation Energy Center at North Carolina State University that will serve as a catalyst to attract innovative jobs to the state, contribute to reducing the nation's dependence on imported oil and cut greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change. The center is a public-private partnership to include the university, Progress Energy and Duke Energy to explore and develop practical technology for plug-in hybrid vehicles and other energy-efficient transportation. The announcement came during the annual Emerging Issues Institute's conference: "North Carolina's Energy Futures; Realizing a State of Opportunity."

"It is our patriotic duty to free ourselves from dependence on foreign oil and become leaders in developing the technology to make our nation energy independent," said Easley. "Just as we have done in the biotech field, we can position our state to be a hub of activity, expertise and a magnet for the new jobs that will emerge as this sector of the economy grows."

The center, to be located on the Centennial Campus, will focus on research to advance more widespread use of plug-in hybrid vehicles, particularly the development of a reliable and dependable source of portable power for electric vehicles. It will seek to:

- Develop batteries that are more powerful and less costly (it currently costs about $10,000 to convert a hybrid to a plug in. The goal is to cut that cost to a more consumer-friendly amount);
- Create the infrastructure to make use of electric vehicles, including convenient charging stations, etc.

The next generation of plug-in hybrid vehicles will run mainly on the battery power with gasoline backup, getting more than 100 miles per gallon. The batteries can be charged by plugging into a typical household outlet. Today's Toyota Prius, for example, gets about 50 miles per gallon.

Widespread use of plug-in hybrid vehicles, according to recent estimates, will decrease domestic dependence on foreign oil through greater fuel efficiency. Simply improving fuel efficiency on cars in the U.S. by 2.7 miles per gallon would equal all of our nation's imports from the Persian Gulf. It would also benefit the environment by cutting the greenhouse gas emissions by as much as 27 percent, according to the EPA.